



The Beacon Online

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The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

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SELC 2025 District Convention

The Sharing Center will be the beneficiary of the ingathering at the 2025 SELC District Convention

The 2025 SELC District Convention will gather donations to support The Sharing Center, an organization that was very important to Pastor Paul Hoyer, who was the lead Local Pastor for this convention prior to his death. Below is what The Sharing Center said about Pastor Hoyer.

Pastor Paul Hoyer's Legacy at The Sharing Center (TSC) began in 1986 when 17 churches of diverse denominations came together to serve those experiencing hunger and homelessness. Since then, TSC has become Seminole County, Florida's most comprehensive social services hub. We believe "actions speak louder than words." Rather than proclaiming Christ to those experiencing hardship, we strive to exemplify Christ through our programs and services. By fulfilling our clients' physical and emotional needs, they are more receptive to a spiritual encounter with the Lord.

Pastor Paul and Holy Cross' active involvement has contributed considerably to our growth. In 2011, we added "The Oasis" as a respite center for individuals experiencing homelessness. Oasis clients have access to showers, laundry service, mailbox service, haircuts, case management, and more. Pastor Paul and the Holy Cross congregation raised the funds needed to construct the first Oasis. He oversaw the construction, and the church provided the first Oasis manager for its first four years. Holy Cross, through Pastor Paul's vision of helping those experiencing homelessness, is the reason we have an "Oasis" today.

Pastor Paul served as an active member of TSC's Board of Directors until his passing in December 2022. In March 2024, the Pastor Paul Hoyer Legacy Award was established as a "testament to the enduring impact of individuals whose generosity and commitment mirror the exemplary service of our beloved Pastor Paul, whose memory we hold dear."

The gathering will be for toiletry items for the Oasis clients. These items include those listed below. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated. Look for more information about the programs at The Sharing Center that Pastor Hoyer supported.

- Travel Size: Body Wash, Lotion, Shampoo, Sunscreen
- Also needed is Deodorant, Feminine Products, Lip Balm, and Razors

The 2025 SELC District Convention is being held January 16 - 19, 2025 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida. The Convention begins with Opening Worship on Thursday evening at 7 PM, followed by a reception. Convention business will be conducted on Friday and Saturday. The Convention ends following worship on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Additional Deadlines

October 15, 2024 - Nominations due for District President and District Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, Proposed Resolutions

November 15, 2024 - Credentials to be submitted for Advisory Delegates and Nominations for District Board of Directors and Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees

December 16, 2024 - Registrations are due for the Convention.

December 26, 2024 - Hotel rooms must be reserved no later than 12/26/2024

Register for the SELC District Convention at this link on our website
- **www.selc.lcms.org/convention/**



The Beacon Online for October 4, 2024 Announcement

The October 4, 2024 Beacon Online will be posted online. The printed copies that are normally sent to churches with Pastoral vacancies, will not receive a printed issue next week. I will be at training all week on a new database for Ordained Ministers and will be unable to print the issue for those Churches. You can access the printable version at this link - **<https://selc.lcms.org/beacon/>** and click on the Beacon Online October 4, 2024 PDF version. Thank you, Patti Smith, Assistant to President Vinovskis



Family Bible Podcast

Ruth is a great portrait of courage, faith, devotion and hope. You can hear her story of undaunted devotion on the Family Bible Journey podcast.

Listen at [familybiblejourney.com!](https://familybiblejourney.com)



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SELC District Board of Directors Meeting

The SELC District Board of Directors met on September 16 and 17, 2024 at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. On Monday evening, Pastor Mark Larson and his family hosted a burrito dinner at their home. We also celebrated Rev. Rick Ramirez's birthday! We were pleased to have Rachel Larson, daughter of Mark and Lisa Larson, also join us. She is the Youth Chairperson for the SELC District and is the SELC lead for the upcoming 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Pictured below is a picture from the dinner held at the Larson's home.



Pictured from left to right:
Front Row: President Vinovskis, Patti Smith, Rev. Rick Ramirez, Rev. Ron Meyr, Lisa Larson, Rev. Mark Larson, Rachel Larson, and Grace Killian
Back Row: Rev Bill hale, Rev. Chris Cahill, Deb St-Onge, Rev. Tige Culbertson, Rev. Wally Arp, Larry Schultz, Rev. Jon Palmer and Lani Palmer



Christian Concert to be Held November 2, 2024

St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA



St. Peter's Lutheran Church is excited to host Wendysue in concert, November 2nd. As well as a gathering of Christians for mutual benefit and edification, it is also an opportunity to support our local missions. There will also be the ability to donate to the food pantry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Wilkes Barre. As an option, this will coincide with the donations we receive for the concert at the door of St. Peter's. All non-perishable food items are welcome. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is a true joy to share with you in the ministry of our Lord; what a blessing it will be to join with so many of the saints from across the NEPA region, congregating in the Spirit to celebrate our faith together in this way; pray, praise, and give thanks.

Funding to help support this concert has been awarded through a SELC Evangelism grant.



Fall Rally LWML SELC District Eastern Zone October 19, 2024

9:00 am Registration

10:00 am Devotion/Bible Study

11:00 am Business Meeting with Elections

NOON Lunch

1:00 Ingathering/Service Projects & Get together to know your neighbor

2:30 Closing

The Fall Rally for the LWML SELC District Eastern Zone, will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, PA on October 19, 2024. The rally schedule is below. Please RSVP by October 12, 2024. The cost is \$5.00 per person. RSVP by October 12th to Karen Ann Kowalczyk - 570-582-6046 - karenannkow@hotmail.com or Cathy Friedman - 732-499-0762 - ziggy1@gmail.com

The IN GATHERING is benefiting Catholic Social Services who serve women in need with their babies. Items needed are NEW car seats, diapers, wipes (sensitive), onesies, sleepers, and Walmart gift cards.



Young Musicians From Your Church are Invited to Lutheran Summer Music 2025!



Enrollment for LSM 2025 is open now! Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a supportive and fun community. Musical experiences include large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and electives like handbells, jazz, musical theatre, composition, conducting, church music and more. Priority enrollment deadline: December 1. Standard enrollment deadline: March 1. Learn more at LSMacademy.org.



Giving Thanks for LCMS Church Workers Throughout the Year

October is the beginning of the Synod's yearlong church worker celebration

Fall is around the corner. It's the time of year we start to think about hayrides, bonfires, hot chocolate and apple picking.

It's also the time of year we turn our thoughts to celebrating and giving thanks for our beloved church workers. In October, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) observes Church Worker Appreciation Month. It's an opportunity for all of us throughout the Synod to recognize, in an intentional and unified way, those who serve us through their faithfulness, dedication and skill. These dear workers bless us in a multitude of ways as they preach, teach and care for God's people in body and soul. First among them, of course, is our pastors, who stand in the stead of Christ as they bring us His gifts of Word and Sacrament. In addition to our pastors, the LCMS is blessed to recognize seven commissioned (auxiliary) offices that support the work of the Holy Ministry: teachers, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, directors of parish music, directors of family life ministry, directors of Christian outreach and directors of church ministries. What a joy to be able to recognize the service of all these gifts of God!

October is the LCMS' designated month for showing appreciation to our workers, there are too many blessings — and people — to celebrate to limit our appreciation to only one month. For that reason, we have planned a year's worth of observances to align with other organizations in highlighting the many workers who serve in the LCMS and to give thanks for all of them and the indispensable and sacrificial work they do.

In His great love and mercy, God cares for His people through the men and women serving in church work vocations. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod thanks God for the faithful church workers who serve in congregations and schools across our Synod.

Below you will find more suggestions for ways to show your gratitude and support for your pastors, teachers, church musicians, deaconesses and other church workers.

Mail a thank-you note

Download and print one of [these cards or postcards](#), color it, and write a note to your pastor or church worker. Address it to them and mail it to your church's address.

Record a video message

Record a short video of you or your family singing a hymn, reading a psalm, or sharing words of encouragement and thanks. Send it to your church worker, and share it on social media to show your support publicly!

Show support on social media

Visit the [LCMS Facebook Page](#) to access [social-media shareables](#) with messages of support for church workers.

Pray

Use the hashtag #LCMSThankYous when sharing your thank you notes, video messages, etc., on social media. Your church workers need prayer. Pray for these workers and let them know you are doing so. Also please pray to the Lord of the harvest for those future church workers whom God will raise up to fill these sacred and joyful roles in His Kingdom.

Whether as a pastor, director of Christian Education (DCE), deaconess, music director or educator, each and every church worker vocation helps proclaim the Good News!





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Rev. Daniel Lepley Accepts Call

Pastor Dan Lepley has received a call to serve as Senior Pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Greenville, Michigan. He will be installed on October 6, 2024. We wish Pastor Lepley and his family God's blessings in this new call.



Women's Bible Study

**Every third Thursday of each month
10:30 am EST**

Zoom or in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Lodi, 8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH 44254

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, October 17th at 10:30 am EST.

The topic will be "SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN" from the third one in the Summer edition of the LWQ

<https://02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>

Be sure to visit the LWML SELC website -
[LWML-SELC District on Strikingly \(mystrikingly.com\)](https://www.lwml-selc.com)



Concordia Seminary Music Series dates set for 2024-25

Events feature sacred music, talented musicians

Music lovers of all ages are invited to campus for the 2024-25 **Concordia Seminary Music Series**, which will feature talented musicians during events scheduled through summer 2025.

The annual series includes Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music, After Chapel Concerts and Summer Carillon Concerts. **The Sacred Music and After Chapel Concerts are being live streamed.**

After Chapel Concerts

The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts, beginning at 9:55 a.m. directly following morning chapel, which begins at 9:35 a.m., and are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also are available via livestream at csl.edu/live.

- This year's After Chapel Concerts will include: Sept. 24: Luke Reske, piano
- Oct. 8: Jillian Gardner, organ
- Nov. 5: Tom Mueller, organ
- Dec. 10: Jinah Knapp, organ
- Feb. 11, 2025: Nathan Pennington, organ
- March 25, 2025: Nancy Peterson, organ

Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music

The Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music will follow the seasons of the church year and will feature locally and nationally acclaimed musicians. The concerts also are available via livestream at csl.edu/live.

This year's Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music include:

- Oct. 27, 3 p.m.: "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe," A Service of Sacred Music for Reformation, featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- Dec. 3, 7 p.m.: "O Christ, Redeemer, Save Us All," A Service of Evening Prayer for Advent, featuring the Service of Light, Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- Feb. 2, 2025, 3 p.m.: "With Peace and Joy I Now Depart," A Candlemas Choral Vespers, featuring the music of J.S. Bach with the American Kantorei, under the direction of Dr. Maurice Boyer, and additional choral music by James MacMillan and Kile Smith
- March 2, 2025, 3 p.m.: "The Only Son from Heaven, "A Hymn Festival for the Season of Epiphany," featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- May 6, 2025, 7 p.m.: "And They Sang a New Song," A Hymn Festival for the Multiethnic Symposium, featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and a variety of instrumentalists and musicians leading the singing of newly translated hymns from around the world



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is back on Florida. Please pray for him to regain the weight he has lost and to regain his strength.

Rev. John Telloni, St. John in Massillon, OH as he is working and continuing to regain his strength as he has returned to work.

Rev. Tom Soltis, Parma, OH for God's loving care.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Ballas, Parma, OH. Please keep them in your prayers.

Rev. Alan Mercer in Galloway, NJ for his ongoing health struggles.

Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL Please continue to pray for her and her doctors to find pain relief solutions for her jaw pain and severe headaches following her surgery.

Laura Bergmann, Munster, IN, please pray for her as she injured her knee and is receiving inpatient treatment to help with her recovery.

Rev. Phil Miksad, St. Louis, MO, who was hospitalized for surgery. Please pray for his recovery and rebuilding of his physical strength as he is recovering at home.

Nita Huffines, St. Louis, MO, wife of Rev. Warren Huffines who is five-year survivor of colon cancer, has begun a new round of treatments. Please pray for her as she receives her treatment.

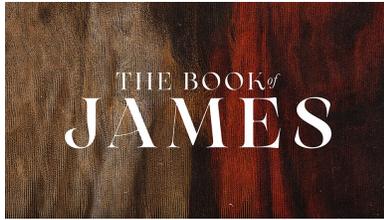
Evelyn Baisch, Austintown, OH, who is recovering from hip surgery. Please pray for her healing and her rehabilitation.

If you have people you would like to be included in the prayer list, please send the information to selc.lcms@gmail.com or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.

Interested in learning practical tips to serve in ministry with passion and purpose?

Listen to the latest episode at lcef.org/gpw-podcast.

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Closing Thoughts Time Well-Spent with the Epistle of James

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

*"Lord, I wish to do such and so in Your Name; correct me if I'm wrong!"
(see James 4:13ff.)*

Faced with so many possible New Testament "*Jameses*" is no reason for ignoring the inspired *content* of this relatively brief letter bearing that name. Likely one of several *younger brothers* of our Lord Jesus mentioned in Mark 6:3 (none of whom *initially* believed Him to be the promised Messiah; see John 7:5, parts of Acts, Galatians and 1 Corinthians 15:7) this James has gifted Christ's redeemed people with a host of vividly practical examples of needed teaching not only regarding his treatment of the importance of **good works** (in keeping with God's prior **gift of baptismal faith**) but also in conjunction with countless other aspects of **sanctified Christian living** not the least of which is the grievous sin of "favoritism" or one-sided partiality.

Given the common tendency of our doing understandably "*feel good*" deeds of Christian love conceivably at times for a less than optimum Gospel-motivated reason that may not be based *solely* on what the apostle calls the "**Father of lights' implanted Word**" or "**Wisdom from Above**" which "*single-mindedly*" acknowledges **Jesus alone** as being *preeminent* in our every individual or corporate thought or act (also see 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 1:18; 1 John 4:19; 5:21).

Citing a dozen or more unmistakable verbal or "thought parallels" from our blessed Lord's familiar "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5-7 (which also contains one of two scriptural sources for our Lord's Prayer; also see Luke 11:2-4), this later reborn martyred leader of the earliest Jerusalem congregation also provides Christ's Church on earth with a growing litany of references on **prayer** for oneself as well as expected intercession in behalf of others (Psalm 50:15; James 5:16ff.).

Though *prayer itself* is not on the same level as the **Spirit's sacramental Gospel means of grace** (For starters, Christ-instituted biblical sacraments are wonderful mysteries that the Lord of the Church does for the His blood-bought Church, never something we do for God!) Stemming perhaps from some unfounded fear that our praying may become *telling God what to do* or, sadly, a precious neglected gift we often only seem to consider as a "last resort" may periodically need to be counter-balanced with Luther's **boldly demanding forgiveness** from his and our Heavenly Father (again) *solely* by the substitutionary merits of our **sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ!**

As we all delight in robustly singing together, "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer," we are blessed to have in the person of our innocently crucified and now ever-living Lord Jesus not only our dearest Friend but also world's only eternal Savior!

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!



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***Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing
Everyone Love in Christ***

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